

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05890 281733Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----122929 281734Z /43
O 281535Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5928

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5890

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ASST. SECY. ATHERTON FROM PARKER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, LE
SUBJ: CONTACTS WITH BASHIR GEMAYEL

REF: STATE 283209

1. APPRECIATE PERSONAL INTEREST YOU TAKING IN ARRANGEMENTS
FOR BASHIR GEMAYEL AND AGREE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT USG
TAKE CONSISTENT, FIRM POSITION WITH HIM. QUESTION BEFORE
US, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS HOW MUCH HE DOES UNDER OUR AUSPICES
AND HOW MUCH IS DONE PRIVATELY BY MARONITE COMMUNITY AND
ITS OUTRIDERS.

2. THERE IS DISTINCTION BETWEEN MEETING USG OFFICIALS
IN THEIR OFFICE AND SEEING THEM AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION. WHILE
BASHIR CAN ALWAYS CLAIM HE SAW SO-AND-SO AND HAD TALK WITH
HIM EVEN IF HE ONLY SAW HIM AT A COCKTAIL PARTY, THAT IS
LESS IMPRESSIVE THAN BEING ABLE TO SAY HE WAS RECEIVED AT
THE PENTAGON OR THE WHITE HOUSE. FOR HIM TO SAY HE WAS
RECEIVED BY ATHERTON WHO HAD WITH HIM SENIOR OFFICIAL FROM
PENTAGON IMPLIES A PENTAGON INTEREST IN BASHIR WHICH IS
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LIKELY TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD HERE. THAT IS WHY I WOULD
RATHER NOT HAVE JANKA PRESENT DURING BACHIR'S CALL ON
YOU. JANKA'S PRESENCE AT LUNCH, A LESSER OCCASION, WOULD
CAUSE FEWER PROBLEMS.

3. AS FOR "DEBRIEFING," I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY
MISUNDERSTANDING. DEPARTMENT APPARENTLY HAS IN MIND BASHIR

SITTING IN SAME ROOM WITH INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS WHO ASK QUESTIONS AND LISTEN TO HIM. THAT IS WHAT HAPPENS TO ME WHEN I GET DEBRIEFED, AND THAT IS WHAT I ASSUMED WE HAD IN MIND FOR BASHIR. MY PROBLEM IS THAT THIS WILL BE REPLAYED HERE WITH CAPITAL LETTERS--BASHIR GIVES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY THE STRAIGHT STORY. THIS GIVES FURTHER CREDENCE TO HIS SELF IMAGE AS PALADIN OF THE CHRISTIAN FORCES SUPPORTED BY THE ENLIGHTENED POWERS OF WASHINGTON IF NOT BY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT. PUT THAT THROUGH THE LOCAL AMPLIFYING SYSTEM AND IT IS LIKELY TO COME OUT AS A CONSIDERABLE BOOST TO HIS POSITION. HE IS FEISTY ENOUGH AS IT IS. PLEASE DO CALL OFF THE DEBRIEFING, UNLESS I WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO DO SO THIS LATE IN THE GAME. ANYTHING WE NEED TO HAVE FROM BASHIR WE CAN PROBABLY GET FROM ONE-TO-ONE CONVERSATIONS.

4. WE HAVE NO FEARS ABOUT QUANDT MEETING BASHIR. JUST WANT TO BE SURE FORMER KNOWS HOW IT WILL BE REPLAYED HERE.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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